

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Summary of the Response

By the foregoing amendment, claims 4, 10 and 16 have been amended and claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15 and 17-18 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 4, 10 and 16 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed on June 2, 2005, claims 1, 7 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being over U.S. Patent No. 5,737,485 to Flanagan et al. (hereinafter "Flanagan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,420,975 to DeLine et al. (hereinafter "DeLine"). Claims 2-3, 6, 8-9, 12, 14-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flanagan in view of DeLine as applied to claims 1, 7 and 13 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,627,091 to Fedele. It is noted that claims 4, 10 and 16 have been amended and claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15 and 17-18 have been canceled. To the extent the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, Applicants hereby traverse the rejections, as follows.

Claims 4, 10 and 16 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

As the Examiner indicated in this and in previous Office Actions (e.g., the Office Actions of November 21, 2003, August 1, 2003 and November 4, 2002), claims 4, 10 and 16 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any independent

claims. By the foregoing amendment, claims 4, 10 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and are, therefore, allowable over the cited art.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107156-00019.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC


Juliana Haydoutova
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,313

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 715-8469
Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810

JH:ksm

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)